

State and Local Government Sweatfree Consortium Interim Steering Committee

May 11, 2007

Present: Bama Athreya, Mark Barenberg, Diego Calvera, Rini Chakraborty, Bjorn Claeson, Eric Dirnbach, Colleen Gardner, Betty Goodling, Carmen Herrera, Betty Lamoreau, Curtis Topper

Minutes: Bjorn Claeson

New steering committee members

NY State has joined and will be represented by Colleen Gardner, Department of Labor. Welcome Colleen!

Discussion: Los Angeles Unified School District has expressed interest in the consortium & joining the interim steering committee. The District has had a sweatfree procurement ordinance in places since 2003 and can help the committee ensure that consortium policy & materials reflect the needs of school districts. The District can also help reaching out to other school districts to grow the consortium. If invited, Marc Monforti, acting director of procurement, would represent the LA USD.

Decision: Invite Los Angeles Unified School District to join the interim steering committee.

Action: Bjorn will send the invitation to LA USD.

Summary of White Paper

Discussion of two-page summary draft sent to steering committee members on May 4.

Decision: Draft approved provided the following changes and additions are made: 1) add "competitive" as modifier to "price" in fifth bullet; 2) list Bjorn and Curtis as contact people for further information; 3) list members of steering committee.

Action: Bjorn will finalize document.

Resolution to join Consortium as provisional member

Discussion of resolution draft sent to steering committee members on May 4.

Decision: Draft approved as a model resolution provided following changes and additions are made: 1) change third "whereas" to "whereas taxpayers may believe that ethical consumption requires that States do not purchase goods from sweatshops;" 2) add Betty Lamoreau, Div of Purchases, State of Maine, as point of contact. An accompanying guide will explain what parts of the model resolution may be changed, what signatories may and may not say in the resolution. Signed resolutions will be considered by the interim steering committee.

Action: Bjorn will finalize the model resolution.

Action: Mark will draft the guide to the resolution.

Outreach

Report (Bjorn): Cities of Portland, OR, and Austin are considering sweatfree ordinances that include funding for consortium. Portland appears interested in supporting the organizing phase, while Austin seems more interested in ensuring that funds be used for independent monitoring.

Committee discussed possibility of other provisional consortium members providing funding for initial organizing consortium phase. ME & PA noted that it would not be possible before July. Further discussion on how Consortium can receive funding.

Decision: SweatFree Communities will set up a separate temporary account to receive funds for Consortium. Up to about \$60,000 will be used for additional SFC staff, infrastructure and accompanying expenses to recruit additional consortium members. Any additional funds, or any money not spent towards recruitment, will roll over to fund the operation of Consortium.

Action: Eric, Rini, and Bjorn will draft budget, job description, activities, and reporting requirements for a consortium staff person.

Upcoming meetings

Report (Curtis): Cooperative purchasing is growing trend – can be used to reduce cost and achieve social goals. Lots of initiatives for schools, cities, fire and safety organizations, and specific regions. However, the only cooperative purchasing initiatives with national scope are the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO), the Western States Contracting Alliance (WSCA), and U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance (for states and local governments).

Curtis and Betty will both attend the Northeast NASPO meeting in Newport, RI, next week and will seek to recruit other states to the Consortium, while discussing possible relationships between Consortium & NASPO. NASPO may be able to provide tools for cooperative sweatfree procurement and handle the contracting work; Consortium would set the policy.

Action: Curtis will report back to steering committee.

Report (Rini): Conference of Mayors, Los Angeles. Wade (SF mayors office) should follow up with LA mayors office to ensure space for Consortium at the conference.

Action: Rini and Carmen will follow up with Wade.

White Paper

Report (Mark): Mark and Scott Nova have redrafted according to directions from Harrisburg meeting.

Action: Bjorn will send out new version in time for review prior to next meeting.

Next Meeting

Noon EST/9 AM PST, Wednesday, May 30.